

F864
B621

F 864
.B621
Copy 1

BLACK REPUBLICAN

IMPOSTURE EXPOSED!

FRAUD UPON THE PEOPLE!

THE ACCOUNTS OF FREMONT EXAMINED;

SHOWING

AN ASTOUNDING DISREGARD OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST, ONLY TO BE AC-
COUNTED FOR BY EXTRAVAGANCE, RECKLESSNESS, OR
AN UTTER WANT OF JUDGMENT!



WASHINGTON:
1856.

F864
B621

31

FREMONT NO STATESMAN.

In the pursuance of the painful duty of exposing the impositions attempted by the Black Republican party, by presenting for the Presidency the name of an individual utterly unfit for the discharge of its responsible duties, we proceed to examine the pretensions of Colonel Fremont as a STATESMAN; and, as one of his biographers has said, that he "resembles Washington," we will see how far he resembles that man, whom it is profanation to compare with any other, in that first official attribute—accuracy and fidelity in his pecuniary transactions. In doing so, we mean no imputation upon the personal character of Colonel Fremont. We shall state recorded facts, and leave the people to judge for themselves of his motives and merits.

COLONEL FREMONT AS A DISBURSING OFFICER.

The chief dealings of Colonel Fremont as a disbursing officer arose during the campaign in California whilst he commanded the volunteers. The obligation of the government to pay all the expenses of the military occupation and conquest of California, was properly held to relate back to the beginning of the revolution. The term of service of the California volunteers began about the 19th July, 1846, when they were received into the service of the United States, and ended when they were discharged from its service about the 19th April, 1847.(1.) The California volunteers were then in the service of the United States ten months.(2.)

The whole amount of claims for the support of these volunteers, filed before the board appointed to audit them, amounted to \$960,614.

The whole amount allowed by the board was \$157,317. The immense proportion of \$803,297 was disallowed(3) or suspended.

From the authorities to which we have referred, it will appear that Colonel Fremont's command consisted for five months of 160 men, and for five months more of 450 men. This was an average command of 205 men. They cost the government the sum stated, and required for their transportation* about 3,500 horses, and for their support about 3,000 cattle*—being at the rate of seventeen horses and fifteen cows per

(1.) Report of board at p. —, in MS.

(2.) This was not a battalion. The use of the term is calculated to deceive. "A battalion is a body of infantry, consisting of from 500 to 800 men." This was a mounted company, consisting, during much the largest term of its military service, of less than 200 men, never more than 450. It consisted on the 19th July, 1840, of 160 men, and continued at that number until about the 1st November, 1846, when it was increased by recruits from new immigrants, 250 of whom, says Colonel Russel, enlisted.—[Ex. Doc. Ho. Reps., No. 175, 1st sess. 33d Con., p. 51.] It then numbered 450, which was the maximum up to the date of its discharge.

(3.) Doc. No. 13, 33d Congress, 2d session.

* Colonel Fremont's deposition.—[Sen. Rep. Com., No. 75, 1st sess. — Con.]

man, besides other supplies, and not estimating that they were at sea some six weeks of the time, and it is to be supposed subsisted upon the ship stores.

This statement of facts will fully justify the imputation that Colonel Fremont manifested in this campaign great extravagance in the use of public money.

We will next publish some of these claims to show that

Colonel Fremont evinced either a want of care, judgment, or integrity, as a disbursing officer.

On the 31st August, 30th September, and 11th November, 1852, Messrs. Corcoran & Riggs, bankers, Washington city, addressed the letters which follow to the Secretary of War:

Letters of Messrs. Corcoran & Riggs referred to.

[Note to report on claim No. 8.]

WASHINGTON, August 31, 1852.

DEAR SIR: We beg to enclose the following accounts of Mariano G. Vallejo for supplies furnished to the United States troops under the command of Captain John C. Fremont, and which please place on file for payment to us, as we have the necessary power to collect the same:

One account for.....	\$82,625
One..... do	24,750
One..... do	500
	<hr/>
	107,875

Yours respectfully,

HON. C. M. CONRAD, *Secretary of War, &c.*

CORCORAN & RIGGS.

WASHINGTON September 30, 1852.

SIR: At the request of Hon. Rob. M. McLane we enclose the following accounts for supplies furnished to the United States troops under the command of, and certified by, Captain J. C. Fremont, which we request may be filed for examination and payment to him, in virtue of the powers of attorney in his possession:

Julio Carullo.....	\$17,500
Victor Purdon.....	7,390
Damasa Rodrigues.....	2,675
Jose de la Rosa.....	5,040
Cayetano Juarez.....	10,520
Mariano G. Vallejo.....	143,300
Salvador Vallejo.....	53,100
	<hr/>
	239,525

Very respectfully, your obd't ser't,

HON. SECRETARY OF WAR, *Washington.*

CORCORAN & RIGGS.

WASHINGTON, November 11, 1852.

DEAR SIR: Under date of 30th September last, certain accounts were transmitted by us, at the request of Hon. Rob. M. McLane, for supplies furnished to the United States troops under the command of Captain J. C. Fremont; among these accounts was one of Mariano G. Vallejo for \$143,500, which ought to have been filed, as explanatory of the accounts to you, August 31, 1852, amounting to \$107,875—both accounts being for the same supplies, but the latter having been stated at reduced prices in consequence of Colonel Fremont's having refused to certify to the value of the articles as charged in the original account transmitted in our letter of 30th September. [Our italics.]

Yours respectfully, &c.,

HON. C. M. CONRAD, *Secretary of War, &c.*

CORCORAN & RIGGS.

As the claims of Vallejo were at first presented, they consisted of the three separate accounts which follow:

The United States, Dr.

To Mariano G. Vallejo.

For the following property taken from the ranchos and stores of Mariano G. Vallejo, for the use of the United States troops under the command of Captain John C. Fremont, in the month of August, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-six:

To five hundred head of first-quality horses, at \$100 each.....	\$50,000
To three hundred and nine head of horses, at \$75 each.....	23,175
To two hundred and fifty head of wild mares, at \$25 each.....	6,250
To forty saddles, complete, at \$50 each.....	2,000
To forty pairs of spurs, at \$5 each.....	200
To two hundred blankets, at \$5 each.....	1,000
Total.....	82,625

M. G. VALLEJO.

SONOMA, August 30, 1856.

I certify, on honor, that the foregoing account is substantially correct and just; that the animals and other property enumerated were taken from General Mariano G. Vallejo for the use of the United States troops under my command serving in California during the year 1846; that this property was lost and expended in said service, and no portion of it returned to General Vallejo; and that he has received no compensation whatever for the same. I do further certify that the prices charged are reasonable, not exceeding the value of the property at the time it was furnished for the use of the United States troops under my command in California.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

In explanation of this amount, it is proper to state that I considered the stock owned by General Vallejo to be of superior quality, and that I was directed by this knowledge in admitting the higher prices set out herein. It is further proper to state that in Sonoma, and generally throughout California, the stock found upon farms was driven off, as much in the view of preventing it from falling into the hands of the enemy as for the use of the troops, to which latter purpose only a comparatively small portion was appropriated. Great numbers of the stock so driven off by us were scattered over the country, and were, consequently, lost and perished. And it is in this extended sense that the words "consumed and expended" in the service of the United States were intended to be understood.

JULY 11, 1853.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

The United States, Dr.

To Mariano G. Vallejo.

For the following property taken from the ranchos of General Mariano G. Vallejo, for the use of the United States troops under the command of Captain John C. Fremont in the month of August, A. D. 1846:

To eight hundred head of cows and large cattle, at \$15 each.....	\$12,000
To six hundred head of second-class cattle, at \$12 each.....	7,200
To six hundred head of third-class cattle, at \$8 each.....	4,800
To one hundred head of sheep, at \$5 each.....	750
Total.....	24,750

M. G. VALLEJO.

SONOMA, August 30, 1846.

I certify, on honor, that the foregoing account is substantially correct and just; that the property enumerated and charged was taken from General Vallejo for the use of the United States troops under my command serving in California during the year 1846; that this property was consumed and expended in said service, and no portion of it returned to General Vallejo; and that he has received no compensation whatever for the same.

I do further certify, that the prices charged are reasonable, not exceeding the value of the property at the time it was furnished for the use of the United States troops under my command in California.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

The explanatory remarks of this date, appended to claim No. 9, I consider as applicable to this case.

JULY 11, 1853.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

[A small account of \$500 allowed, omitted.]

These accounts, it will be seen, amount, in the aggregate, to \$107,875. They are all certified by Colonel Fremont as correct.

On the 11th November, 1852, the bankers, in explanation of these accounts, present to the board one inclusive account, as follows :

The United States

To Mariano G. Vallejo, Dr.

For the following property taken from the ranchos and stores of Mariano G. Vallejo by the troops under the command of Captain J. C. Fremont in the month of June, July, and August, A. D. 1846 :

To 500 head of number one horses, at \$150 each	\$75,000
To 309 head of horses, at \$100 each	30,900
To 800 head of cows and large cattle, at \$15 each	12,000
To 600 head of second-class cattle, at \$12 each	7,200
To 600 head of third-class cattle, at \$8 each	4,800
To 150 head of sheep, at \$5 each	750
To 250 head of wild mares, at \$25 each	6,250
To 40 saddles, at \$100 each	4,000
To 40 pair of spurs, at \$10 each	400
To 9 rifles, at \$100 each	900
To 1 pair of pistols	100
To 200 blankets, at \$5 each	1,000

Amounting to..... 143,300

SONOMA, August 30, 1846.

I certify that the above account is generally correct. The property described was taken by the troops under my command, and used in the service of the United States. From the nature of the operations which have been carried on in this country, it has not been possible for me to keep myself exactly informed of the quantity of property taken from individuals; but in the present instance it was taken under my more immediate personal direction, subject to my inspection. I therefore believe the above account to be substantially correct, and accordingly acknowledge and approve it.

J. C. FREMONT.

Now, will any friend of Colonel Fremont explain to us how it was, that on the 30th August, 1846, Colonel Fremont certified the items of which the account amounting to \$143,300 is composed, "as substantially correct, and accordingly acknowledge and approve it," and subsequently, on the 11th July, 1853, certified "on honor" the same items when scaled and reduced in the aggregate by the sum of \$35,425, or thirty per cent., as being "substantially correct and just," and "not exceeding the value of the property at the time it was purchased for the use of the United States troops?"

Colonel Fremont has also certified, at the same dates, the claim of Salvador Vallejo, amounting to \$53,100, of Antonio Carrillo, amounting to \$14,010, and others, at the same extravagant figures, and some of them are represented by the same solicitors:

[Claim No. 246.]

United States, Dr.

To Carlos Antonio Carrillo.

For supplies furnished United States troops under command of Col. John C. Fremont:	
1847. January 5. To 38 mules, at \$100.....	3,800
To 20 mares, at \$50.....	1,000
To 75 horses, at \$100.....	7,500
To 35 cows, (milk,) at \$30.....	1,050
To 100 fanegas corn, at \$3.....	300
To 60 fanegas beans, at \$1.....	240
To 4 saddles, at \$30.....	120
	<hr/>
	14,010

I certify that the above account is correct, and that the supplies enumerated in the bill were furnished to the troops under my command, and applied accordingly to the use of the United States forces.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

United States, Dr.

To Julio Carrillo.

For the following property taken from the ranchos and stores of Julio Carrillo, by the troops under the command of Capt. J. C. Fremont, in the months of June, July, and August, A. D. 1846:	
To 40 head of second-quality horses, at \$100 each.....	\$4,000
To 80 head third-quality horses, at \$30 each.....	6,400
To 80 mares, at \$30 each.....	6,400
To 4 saddles, at \$100 each.....	400
To 3 rifles, at \$100 each.....	300
	<hr/>
Total.....	17,500

The within account approved.

J. C. FREMONT.

[Claim No. 16.]

United States, Dr.

To Salvador Vallejo.

For the following property taken from the ranchos and stores of Salvador Vallejo, by the troops under the command of Captain J. C. Fremont, in the months of June, July, and August, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and forty-six:	
To two hundred head of first-quality horses, at one hundred and thirty dollars each....	26,000
To two hundred and forty head of second-quality horses, at one hundred dollars each....	24,000
To fifteen saddles, at one hundred dollars each.....	1,500
To four rifles, at one hundred dollars each.....	400
To one rifle, at two hundred dollars.....	200
To two pair of pistols, at one hundred dollars each.....	200
To ten mares, at eighty dollars each.....	800
	<hr/>
Total—fifty-three thousand one hundred dollars.....	\$53,100

The remarks of this date, appended to claim No. 11, are applicable to the present case, except that it is proper further to say that the arms specified herein were of a superior quality.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

JULY 11, 1853.

Sworn to by claimant, and endorsed: Approved.

J. C. FREMONT.

United States, Dr.

To Jose De La Rosa.

For the following property taken from the stores of Jose de la Rosa, in Sonoma, by the troops under the command of Captain J. C. Fremont, in the months of June, July, and August, A. D. 1846:

To 21 mares, at \$30 each.....	1,680
To 28 tame cows, at \$30 each.....	1,100
To 11 horses, at \$100 each.....	1,100
To 9 horses, at \$30 each.....	720

To 4 mules, at \$100 each	400
To 3 rifles, at \$100 each	300
Total	\$5,040

Endorsed on the back: The within account approved.

J. C. FREMONT.

[Claim No. 230.]

The United States

To William D. Phelps, Dr.

For services for himself, crew, and boats of the barque Moscow, of Boston, of which he was part owner and in command, and being agent for all other owners, and for the risk and hazard incident to such service, in transporting Captain J. C. Fremont and a detachment of men under his command to a fort on the opposite side of the bay and entrance to the port of San Francisco, in Upper California, in July, 1846, and aiding him in capturing and dismantling the said fort, and spiking the guns thereof, consisting of three brass and seven iron cannon, of heavy calibre, and a part of which was afterwards taken on board the United States ship Portsmouth, by order of Captain J. B. Montgomery, United States navy, \$10,000.

E. E.

WILLIAM PHELPS.

Sworn to by the claimant.

I certify that Captain William D. Phelps did transport a party of men under my command to the fort near the Presidio, at the entrance of the bay of San Francisco, under the circumstances narrated in the above deposition; that he aided in dismantling the fort, and that I have always considered his services on that occasion to have been very valuable to the United States.

JOHN C. FREMONT.

WASHINGTON CITY, August 5, 1853.

I certify that in July, 1846, Captain W. D. Phelps did transport a party of men under the command of Captain J. C. Fremont from Sancelito across the bay of San Francisco (seven miles) to the fort at Yerba Buena, commanding the entrance to the harbor, for the purpose of spiking the guns of the fort, which was in a very dismantled condition, and could not have been occupied without having been almost entirely rebuilt. There was no enemy present, and the sole object Captain Fremont had in view was to prevent the Californians from using the guns at any future time. There was no risk or personal danger incurred, and the service would be well paid for at fifty dollars.

ARCHI. W. GILLESPIE,
Bvt. Major U. S. M. Corps.

WASHINGTON, September 19, 1853.

Board for the examination of claims contracted in California under Lt. Col. John C. Fremont.

[Opinion on the claim of Wm. D. Phelps, No. 230.—Services of boats' crew and use of boat, \$10,000.]

The board deems a part of this claim, amounting to fifty dollars, (\$50.) just, and accordingly recommend so much of it in amount to the favorable consideration of Congress; the balance, nine thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars, (\$9,950.) being disallowed.

[Vote unanimous—see journal, page 302.]

C. F. SMITH,

•Col. U. S. Army, President of the Board.

FEBRUARY 8, 1854.

Here is a claim of ten thousand dollars, certified by Colonel Fremont to be just, which a competent witness says would be "well paid for at \$50," and the board of sworn commissioners disallows nine thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars! The claimant, backed by Colonel Fremont's certificate, recovers just five per cent. of his demand! The public escapes the payment of nine thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars! Shade of Nathaniel Macon, rise and protect a plundered treasury!

How can these extravagant allowances, and these accommodating certificates, be explained? We ask a reply.

But the board of commissioners differed very greatly with Colonel Fremont and the great banking solicitors in their opinion of the value of horses in California, and therefore abated the claims immensely. Speaking of that portion of the claim represented in the first demand by an account of \$82,625, the board says:

Board for the examination of claims contracted in California under Lieut. Col. John C. Fremont.

[Opinion in the claim of Mariano G. Vallejo, No. 9.—Horses, cattle, &c., \$82,625.]

On the additional testimony produced, the board is of opinion that a part of this claim, amounting to thirty-two thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars, (\$32,625,) is just, and accordingly recommend so much of it in amount to the favorable consideration of Congress; the balance, fifty thousand dollars, (\$50,000,) being disallowed. This amount is arrived at by allowing the undermentioned rates, the price affixed for the first quality of horses appearing to be the highest that was paid by the quartermaster, or any other official, for horses for the California battalion, viz:

500 horses, 1st quality, at \$40	\$20,000
309 do 2d do at \$25	7,725
250 wild mares, at \$10.	2,500
40 saddles, complete, at \$30	1,200
40 pairs of spurs, at \$5	200
200 blankets, at \$5	1,000
	<hr/>
	\$32,625
	<hr/>

[Vote unanimous—see journal, page 226.]

JANUARY 17, 1854.

C. F. SMITH,
Colonel U. S. Army, President of the Board.

The moderate little sum of \$50,000, certified by Colonel Fremont "as just and correct" is certified by the board to have been an improper demand.

And so in the cases of Salvador Vallejo and C. A. Carrillo, both of which were "approved" by Colonel Fremont. This inexorable board made the following awards:

Board for the examination of claims contracted in California under Lieut. Col. John C. Fremont.

[Opinion on the claim of Salvador Vallejo.—Horses, arms, &c., \$53,100. No. 16.]

On the additional testimony produced, the board is of opinion that a part of this claim, amounting to eleven thousand seven hundred dollars (\$11,700) is just, and accordingly recommend so much of it in amount to the favorable consideration of Congress; the balance, forty-one thousand four hundred dollars (\$41,400) being disallowed.

This amount is arrived at by allowing the undermentioned rates, viz:

200 horses, first quality, at \$30	\$6,000
240 horses, second quality, at \$20	4,800
15 saddles, at \$30	450
4 rifles, at \$50	200
1 rifle, at \$50	50
2 pair pistols, at \$50	100
10 mares, at \$10	100
	<hr/>
	11,700
	<hr/>

[Vote unanimous—see journal, page 230.]

C. F. SMITH,
Colonel U. S. Army, President of the Board.

JANUARY 19, 1854.

REMARKS AND ACTION OF THE BOARD IN THE CASE OF JULIO CARRILLO.

It does not appear from this account—the only testimony before the board—when, where, or by whom, the property was taken.

The board is of the opinion that the prices charged are extravagant, and taking into consideration other claims, for supplies of a similar nature, that the number of animals is disproportionate to the force in service; on which points it deems additional testimony necessary. The board also deems additional proof or explanation requisite with respect to the number or quantity of the articles or supplies taken.

Board for the examination of claims contracted in California under Lieut. Col. John C. Fremont.

[Opinion on the claim of Carlos Antonio Carrillo, No. 246.—Horses, &c., \$14,010.]

The board deems a part of this claim, amounting to four thousand and thirty-five dollars, (\$4,035), just, and accordingly recommend so much of it in amount to the favorable consideration of Congress; the balance, nine thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars, (\$9,975,) being disallowed. This amount is arrived at by the allowing the undermentioned rates, viz:

38 mules, at \$25.....	\$950
20 mares, at \$10.....	200
75 horses, at \$25.....	1,875
35 cows, at \$10.....	350
100 fanegas corn, at \$3.....	300
60 do beans, at \$4.....	240
4 saddles, at \$30.....	120
	<hr/>
	4,035
	<hr/>

[Vote unanimous—see journal, page 305.]

FEBRUARY 9, 1854.

C. F. SMITH,

Colonel U. S. Army, President of the Board.

In this last case there is the sum of more than fifty thousand dollars out of sixty-four thousand dollars, “approved” by Colonel Fremont as a proper charge upon the public treasury, disallowed and cast out as an attempted fraud and imposition by the claimants or those who represent them; and as a final and conclusive condemnation of these accounts so certified by Col. Fremont, and presented by Messrs. Corcoran & Riggs, the board made the following recapitulatory report:

F.		
Claim No.		
5—J. A. Sutter.....	\$7,200	not allowed.
“ 7—Mariano G. Vallejo.....	500	“
“ 8— do. do.	24,700	“
“ 9— do. do.	82,625	“
“ 10— do. do.	143,300	“
“ 11—Julio Carrillo.....	17,500	“
“ 12—Victor Prudon.....	7,390	“
“ 13—Damasa Rodriguez.....	2,675	“
“ 14—Jose de la Rosa.....	5,040	“
“ 15—Cayetano Juarez.....	10,520	“
“ 16—Salvador Vallejo.....	53,100	“

[Report of board on Claims No. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.]

It does not appear from this account—the only testimony before the board—when, where, or by whom the property was taken.

The board is of opinion that the prices charged are extravagant, and, taking into consideration other claims for supplies of a similar nature, that the number of animals is disproportionate to the force in service, on which points it deems additional testimony necessary.

The board also deems additional proof or explanation requisite with respect to the number or quantity of the articles of supplies taken.

[Report of board on No. 10.]

Withdrawn, and submitted "as explanatory" to claims Nos. 7, 8, and 9.

Now, lest it may be said that these prices were too low, or that in the case of the reduced accounts that prices had declined thirty per cent. within the period that intervened between the first and second certificates of Colonel Fremont, let us examine a few other accounts for supplies of the same description, furnished during the same campaign. The evidence which we shall adduce will vindicate the board from any imputation of injustice.

The first testimony which we shall offer will be that of one of Colonel Fremont's witnesses, Captain Hensley, who says, under the caption of "the average prices of military supplies of all descriptions in California, before and during the war:" "Horses and mules from \$25 to \$35. Beef cattle, from \$3 to \$10 per head."*

The reader will now examine the following accounts for horses furnished the volunteers, all of which were approved by Col. Fremont:

[Claim No. 97.]

This is to certify that Don Antonio German has delivered for the service of the United States volunteers, the following horses, &c., &c.

One tortello horse, feine de Thodora Areanes, valued at.....	\$25 00
One rolento horse, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One segno horse, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One rosello horse, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One baym blanco, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One curselano, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One pinto, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One rosello, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One tortello, feine del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One callote, feine de dos rianchos del rancho [] valued at.....	15 00
One mare, callo blanco del rancho [] valued at.....	12 00
One crulla horse, del rancho [] valued at.....	25 00
One new saddle, valued at.....	25 00
One pair spurs, valued at.....	8 00
One bridle, valued at.....	5 00
One riada, valued at.....	1 00
One carbine, valued at.....	8 00
Two pair spurs, taken at the house.....	16 00
Two bridles.....	10 00

Three hundred and fifty dollars in full..... 350 00

PUEBLA, SAN JOSEPH, November, 1846.

CHAS. M. WEBER,
Commanding U. S. Charge, Puebla.

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. U. S. A., commanding California battalion.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommends it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

* Ex. Doc. House of Reps. 817, 1st sess. 30th Cong., p. 37.

[Claim No. 95.]

The United States government, Dr.

To Tomaso Hernandez.

To	1 saddle, complete with spurs and bridle.....	\$30 00
	1 tortello horse	25 00
	1 grullo horse.....	30 00
	1 grullo mare.....	10 00
		<hr/>
		95 00
	1 shot-pouch, and two powder horns.....	5 00
		<hr/>
		100 00
		<hr/>

PUEBLA, SAN JOSE, February 26, 1847.

Approved:

CHAS. M. WEBER,
Commanding U. S. Charge, Puebla.

Approved:

JOHN C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. U. S. A. commanding California battalion.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommends it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 96.]

Received of Don Miguel Castro, de San Juan, for the service of the United States forces in California, the following horses, &c:

5 horses, with his own mark, valued at \$20 each.....	100 00
5 mares.....do.....do.....\$10 each.....	50 00
1 saddle, bridle, and one spur.....	24 00
Valued in full, one hundred and seventy-four dollars.	<hr/>
	174 00
	<hr/>

CHAS. M. WEBER,
Commanding U. S. Charge of Puebla.

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. U. S. A., commanding California battalion.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommends it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 94.]

Receipt of Charles M. Weber, dated Ranch Pinola, ——— 1846, ——— of D. Jose Martinez, eight horses (five horses and three mares) for the service of the United States troops—their value is \$15 a head, \$120 00.

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. U. S. A., commanding California battalion.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommends it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 83.]

Receipt of L. W. Hastings, commanding the United States volunteers en route for Monterey, dated November 13, 1846, of Wm O. Conner, one fat cow, for the use of the United States volunteers under his command, valued at.....

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. United States Army.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 82.]

Receipt of L. W. Hastings, commanding the United States volunteers at Pueblo, dated November 12, 1846, of S. Finley, one rifle gun, for the use of the United States volunteers under my command, valued at.....

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,
Lieut. Col. United States Army.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 80.]

This is to certify that a sorrel horse, belonging to Dr. James Stokes, was taken into the United States service, and has not by me been receipted for or otherwise accounted for—said horse was worth \$30..... \$30 00

L. W. HASTINGS.

SAN FRANCISCO, February 27, 1847.

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,

Lieut. Col. United States Army.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 67.]

Due-bill of Jacob R. Snyder, quartermaster, dated Angeles, January 23th, 1847: due to Wm. B. Elliott, from the United States quartermaster's department, for one horse, furnished California battalion United States forces..... \$30 00

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,

Lieut. Col. U. S. Army, commanding California battalion.

The board is of the opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

[Claim No. 65.]

Receipt of Jacob R. Snyder, quartermaster, California battalion United States forces, dated Monterey, November 20, 1846, of Mrs. Modesta Castro, the following described property for the use of the California battalion:

40 horses.....	\$400
30 mares.....	210
20 horses.....	260

876

Approved:

J. C. FREMONT,

Lieut. Col. United States Army.

The board is of opinion that the claim is reasonable and just, and accordingly recommend it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

It is not the least extraordinary feature of this transaction that those three thousand five hundred horses should have dwindled down at the close of the campaign to less than two hundred, and that when turned over to the United States they were scattered about and abandoned, and "a great part of them, and the pick and choice of them, sold for a trifle, say some three thousand dollars."*

We have cited a few of the numerous claims presented to the board and allowed. From these it will be seen that, whilst the rich and powerful family of the Vallejos, whose claims were subsequently stated by influential bankers, *were allowed to make out their accounts at prices four and five hundred per cent. above those charged by others for the same supplies during the same campaign*, and were, moreover, allowed to vary their charges 30 per cent., with the certificate of Colonel Fremont for both sets of prices, the humble and friendless settlers, and the helpless Mexican widow, received but from one-fifth to one-fourth of the prices allowed them for the same articles. Look at the claim of Antonio German for 12 horses, at from \$12 to \$25; of Wm. B. El-

* Question by Col. Fremont's counsel. Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 33, 1st sess, 30th Cong., p. 145.

liott for 1 horse, at \$30 ; of Mrs. Castro for 40 horses, at \$10 each ; for 30 mares, at \$7 each ; and for 20 horses, at \$13 each. Was their stock less valuable than that of Messrs. Vallejo? Unhappy widow ! unfortunate settlers ! you were poor ; you had no rich bankers to back your little claims ; *your* horses were not worth one-fourth as much as if they had been raised on the ranchos of General Vallejo !

Let not our readers think that the horses and cattle of Gen. Vallejo brought the high prices solicited and certified for them, because they had become more valuable by an increasing demand. Gold was not discovered in California for nearly two years after the conquest, and the horses bought of Vallejo, and Carillo, and de la Roso, were bought at the *beginning* of the revolution. The prices allowed the other claimants were for horses taken near the *end* of the revolution ; yet the price of horses declines with the demand, and are worth less *after* an enemy has been foraging the country for ten months, than *before* he entered it !

We have no right to say that Colonel Fremont was in any manner interested in the claims represented by these wealthy bankers. We have no right to say that he favored these wealthy and influential Californians, that he might take an interest in their recovery from his own government. What his motives were we do not know, and therefore will not intimate. But this we will say fearlessly, because we are borne out by the recorded documents of the government in doing so, that Colonel Fremont certified one man's horses to be worth \$150 each, and the horses of others to be worth, at the same time and under the same circumstances, but from \$10 to \$25 each. That claims for horses and other stock were reduced more than thirty-five thousand dollars, with the certified approval of Colonel Fremont, and that the commissioners scaled these particular accounts more than eighty-four thousand dollars !

Here are the specifications. Carelessness, recklessness, favoritism, and connivance with the claimants. The friends of Colonel Fremont may defend themselves against any or all. We cite the facts, without any other comment than this, that Colonel Fremont was either no judge of horse-flesh himself, or thought nobody else was. That is all.

We shall offer but one other evidence of his want of judgment, or of his reckless indifference to the public interest.



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 017 167 238 7



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 017 167 238 7

